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PURCHASING DIVISION
FARMER COOPERATIVE SERVICE
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GENERAL REPORT 102
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FROZEN FOOD LOCKER AND FREEZER PROVISIONING PLANTS
IN THE UNITED STATES

Twenty-Fourth Annual Count, January 1961

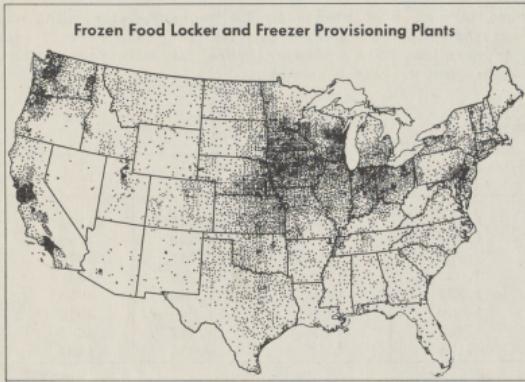
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An estimated 10,365¹ frozen food locker and freezer provisioning plants were operating in the United States in January 1961 (table 1). This was 490 more plants than were operating a year earlier. Indications are that between 85 and 90 percent of all plants provide locker rental service in addition to processing and merchandising services. The remaining plants have no lockers but specialize in processing and merchandising frozen foods, principally to homefreezer owners. The increase in total number of plants is due largely to the increasing number of these homefreezer provisioning plants (table 2).

The accompanying dot map shows the approximate geographic distribution of plants in the industry in 1961.

Many States have amended, or are considering amending, their "frozen food locker" laws to include under these laws those plants not renting lockers but engaged in the freezer provisioning business. Generally these plants are required to obtain licenses and conform to standards established for frozen food locker plants, such as standards of sanitation, and requirements regulating labeling, processing equipment, and facilities.

¹This count is based on information supplied by various State departments and other agencies, some of which had no record of the number of freezer provisioning plants.



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Note: Appreciation is expressed to officials of State Departments of Agriculture, State Extension Services, and State locker associations for their cooperation in providing information to Farmer Cooperative Service.

Table 1. - Locker and freezer provisioning plants by States, January 1961

State and region	Number	State and region	Number	State and region	Number
Maine	20	Maryland	52	Montana	177
New Hampshire	11	Delaware	11	Idaho	172
Vermont	24	Virginia	59	Wyoming	78
Massachusetts	127	West Virginia	216	Colorado	248
Rhode Island	8	North Carolina	101	Utah	116
Connecticut	42	South Carolina	60	Nevada	22
New York	2,236	Georgia	85	New Mexico	61
New Jersey	33	Florida	36	Arizona	244
Pennsylvania	272	South Atlantic	420	Mountain	918
North Atlantic	673	Kentucky	86	Washington	564
Ohio	595	Tennessee	86	Oregon	397
Indiana	373	Alabama	62	California	612
Michigan	270	Mississippi	58	Alaska	131
Wisconsin	612	Arkansas	94	Hawaii	6
Illinois	472	Louisiana	139	Pacific	1,579
Minnesota	1,010	Oklahoma	191	United States	10,365
Iowa	726	Texas	1,417		
Missouri	402	South Central	1,033		
North Dakota	190				
South Dakota	182				
Nebraska	445				
Kansas	465				
North Central	5,742				

¹1959 count.²1960 count.³Not available.

The general trend in number of plants in the industry--declining number of locker plants and increasing number of freezer provisioning plants--will probably continue for some time as more and more consumers purchase homefreezers and the industry adjusts to this changing marketing condition.

Table 2. - Number of frozen food locker plants, 1938-1961

Year	Total plants	Year	Total plants	Year	Total plants
1938	1,269	1946	8,025	1954	10,854
1939	1,861	1947	9,529	1955	10,553
1940	2,870	1948	10,617	1956	10,344
1941	3,623	1949	11,245	1957	9,894
1942	4,323	1950	11,569	1958	9,611
1943	4,559	1951	11,608	1959	9,271
1944	5,282	1952	11,427	1960	10,875
1945	6,484	1953	10,954	1961	¹ 10,365

¹Includes freezer provisioners.